

EVPP210



Environmental Biology: Molecules and Cells

Department of Environmental Science & Policy

Lecture: EVPP210-001

Spring 2022, MW 10:30-11:45 am

Lecture Hall 3



Lecture Instructor:

Name: Dr. Scott Glaberman

Email: sglaberm@gmu.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment (During Pandemic)

Format: F2F (Pandemic Permitting)

Learning Assistant:

Name: Fae Jensen

Email: mjense@gmu.edu

Office Hours/Review Sessions: TBD

Lab Sections:

Instructor: Samantha Mohney

Email: smohney@gmu.edu

Lab Location: DKH 3021

Format: F2F

Required Materials:

Textbook (Free!): <https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e>

Laboratory Manual: Introductory Cell Biology Laboratory Manual (Required)

Access to course material on Blackboard at <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>

Course Description:

The goal of this course is to give students core knowledge of molecular and cellular biology that is critical for understanding the relationship between living organisms and their environment. Much of the biology encountered in upper level environmental science courses at GMU will be based on information from this class. The basic principles will be taught by lectures listed below and will be based on material in the textbook. Lecture material will be presented with PowerPoint and may contain some material not found in the textbook. The lecture schedule is subject to change based on progress. Questions or comments to the instructor are encouraged in class but I may communicate with students by email so every student must have an active GMU email account. Please note that lecture and laboratory are linked (grade is based on performance in both), so they must be taken concurrently and require similar levels of understanding about the key concepts of environmental biology. The lecture section will highlight each week's reading and study assignments; the laboratory section will provide further explanation and experimental investigations of key concepts.

Course Organization:

Three lecture exams covering specific sections of the material will be administered during the semester and a cumulative final exam will be administered during the scheduled final examination period. All exams are multiple choice worth 100 points each. One lowest exam score will be dropped (does not include final). No make-up exams are allowed.

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Students missing an exam because of illness or any other reason will have that particular exam score automatically dropped. *The purpose of the dropped exam is to offset bad days, flat tires, illness, or other unexpected absences.*

Six case studies will be completed in alone or in groups during class time. Each case study will count for 10 pts. The lowest case study grade will be dropped. This is to account for unforeseen absences. There are no makeups. Information from these case studies could show up on the exam.

Course Policies:

All students are expected to maintain the GMU honor code by practicing ethical behavior and submitting original work. To assist with another student's unethical behavior is also a violation of the honor code. Remember, the honor code protects your hard work and the value of your degree from GMU. Please turn off cell phones or pagers before class begins. If using electronic devices (such as phones, laptops, tablets), please be respectful of your peers and your instructor and do not engage in activities that are unrelated to class. Such disruptions can affect your grade. Unless otherwise noted by the instructor prior to the exam, these assessments will be taken without the use of study aids, memoranda, textbooks, other books, data, or other information available. The purpose of these assessments is to evaluate the student's progress in understanding the material. There should be nothing on your desk except a pencil and a bottle of water when taking exams.

E-mail policy: I do not respond to emails in the evenings (after 5 pm) or during the weekends, nor do I expect you to. Also, please allow at least 48 hours for a response. Therefore, please be proactive in figuring out what questions you have and do not leave things until the day before an exam or assignment.

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see Dr. Glaberman and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this information throughout the semester.

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Course Grading:

Three lecture exams*	+100 points each
Cumulative final	+100 points
Case Studies*	+50 points
Lecture total	350 points
Laboratory total	+150 points
Course total	500 points

*Lowest score dropped

Number Grade	Letter Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
70-76	C
60-70	D
<60	F
<i>A CURVE WILL NOT BE APPLIED</i>	

Schedule of Lectures*:

Week	Days	Topic
1	Jan 24	Course Intro
	Jan 26	The Scientific Method
2	Jan 31	<i>Case Study 1: Disappearing Marine Iguanas</i>
	Feb 2	What is Life?
3	Feb 7	Small Molecules
	Feb 9	Proteins, Carbohydrates, and Lipids
4	Feb 14	Proteins, Carbohydrates, and Lipids
	Feb 16	<i>Case Study 2: Curly and Straight Hair</i>
5	Feb 21	Exam 1
	Feb 23	Nucleic Acids
6	Feb 28	Cells
	Mar 2	Cell Membranes
7	Mar 7	<i>Case Study 3: Cell Membranes</i>
	Mar 9	Cell Signaling
8	Mar 14	Spring Break
	Mar 16	Spring Break
9	Mar 21	<i>Case Study 4: Insulin Signaling</i>
	Mar 23	Exam 2
10	Mar 28	Energy, Enzymes, and Metabolism
	Mar 30	Pathways that Harvest Energy
11	Apr 4	<i>Case Study 5: Cell Respiration</i>
	Apr 6	Photosynthesis
12	Apr 11	<i>Case Study 6: Killing Chloroplasts</i>
	Apr 13	From DNA to Protein
13	Apr 18	<i>Case Study 7: The Sound of DNA</i>
	Apr 20	Exam 3
14	Apr 25	Cell Cycle
	Apr 27	Inheritance
15	May 2	Molecular Ecology
	May 4	Environmental Genomics
	May 11	Final Exam (10:30-1:15)

* These topics are tentative. I am always striving to improve this course and may introduce new content or change the order of topics to improve the student experience.